

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: A Serbian Film

Other known title(s): Srpski Film

OFLC ref: 1200259.000

Medium: DVD

Distributor: Fishpond Limited

Director: Srđan Spasojević

Producer: Srđan Spasojević
Dragoljub Vojnov

Country of origin: Serbia

Language: Serbian

Applicant: Secretary for Internal Affairs

Classification: Objectionable.

Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 24 May 2012

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

	Components	Running time
Menu:	Play Film Scene Selection Set Up Filmmaker's Insight	
Feature(s):	A Serbian Film	95:23
Timed component(s):	Introduction Filmmaker's Insight Notices	3:40 9:38 0:13

Total running time:		108:54
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Summary of reasons for decision:

The feature is an example of extreme cinema from Serbia. The film is about a retired porn star who accepts a role starring in an "art-porn" film. Once shooting begins he is tricked, manipulated and finally drugged into taking part in a catalogue of atrocities which include extreme and brutal acts of sexual violence and violence in association with sexual conduct. Other atrocities he witnesses or takes part in include cruelty, torture, sexual conduct with children and young persons, necrophilia and bestiality.

There is a high likelihood that viewers would be greatly shocked and disturbed by the extreme sexual violence and violence in association with sexual conduct, along with sexual conduct with children and young persons, regardless of age. The publication's sexual violence and violence in association with sexual conduct is concerning in a different way. Research has repeatedly shown that such depictions are likely to reinforce negative attitudes towards women in a number of ways. They have been shown to desensitise viewers to real-life violence, to reduce empathy with victims of sexual violence amongst both men and women, to increase rape myth acceptance, and to increase women's fear of sexual assault. In the current publication this material is so extensive and extreme that these injuries to the public good are likely to occur regardless of the age of the viewer. The publication is characterised by a significant level of dispute over its claims to merit, value and importance.

While the classification places a restriction on the freedom of expression as contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, it is a restriction consistent with Parliament's intention that publications containing such a high extent and degree of sexual violence and violence in association with sexual conduct, along with sexual conduct with children and young persons, be classified as "objectionable" to prevent the likelihood of injury to the public good.